

**Minutes of the Grinnell City Council Meeting**  
**May 3, 2004**

The City Council of the City of Grinnell met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Grinnell Community Center, 927 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa, at 7:00 p.m., Monday, May 3, 2004. Mayor Canfield presided.

Roll Call:       PRESENT:       Elliott, McNaul, Wilson, White, Worley.  
                  ABSENT:       Witt.

PERFECTING AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by WHITE, second by WORLEY, to approve the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as printed. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Worley, McNaul, Wilson, Elliott. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Previous minutes as drafted from the Monday, April 19, 2004 Regular Session.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Moved by WHITE, second by MCNAUL, to pay all bills where funds are available. Roll Call: Ayes: White, McNaul, Worley, Elliott, Wilson. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- I.     PAD Minutes of April 15 and 22, 2004.
- II.    Renaissance Minutes of April 29, 2004.
- III.   Tourism Minutes of April 28, 2004.
- IV.    Library Minutes of April, 2004.
- V.     Arbor Day Proclamation and Iowa School Board Recognition week.

OLD BUSINESS:

- I.     Report from Public Works & Grounds Committee.
  - Recommendation in regard to the proposed 69kV transmission line proposed by Alliant Energy.

Elliott reviewed the discussion in regard to the location of a transmission line through Grinnell on Highway 146. They intend to install the line overhead in an area which does not currently have overhead distribution. There will be a public hearing on Tuesday, May 11, 2004 at 10:00 am at the Veteran's Memorial Building.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by MCNAUL, to approve the council position to request the line be constructed north of town and then turn east from the substation to avoid the populated area of Grinnell. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, McNaul, Wilson, Worley, White

- Recommendation in regard to the request submitted by the Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce in regard to blocking of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue from Broad Street to Park Street on May 18, 2004 for the Biodiesel Trek Across Iowa.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WHITE to approve the request submitted by the Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce in regard to blocking of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue from Broad Street to Park Street on May 18, 2004 for the Biodiesel Trek Across Iowa. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, White, McNaul, Wilson, Worley. Motion carried.

- Update in regard to the Central Business District Task Force.

Elliott summarized the report given by the Mayor in regard to the Central District Task Force. She further invited the Mayor to comment on his written report. The Mayor reviewed the topic of one-way versus two-way traffic. The vote was eight members to five members in favor of two way traffic. The task force is recommending to the council to pursue the establishment of two-way streets. He further commented that the task force unanimously agreed that the infrastructure, including private service lines and city mains, should be completely reconstructed, after careful assessment. Elliott noted that the two items will come to the council for review upon the development of a formal position by the task force. She requested the issues remain two separate issues. Elliott clarified that these two items need to be resolved fairly quickly as they will effect the engineering process.

- Recommendation in regard to the lease for the Grinnell Historic Preservation Commission.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by MCNAUL to approve the lease for the Grinnell Historic Preservation Commission to store salvageable materials to offer for sale to public for use in other projects. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, McNaul, Wilson, White, Worley. Motion carried.

- Review of the downtown parking options.

Elliott noted the committee had received options from Lee Henderson, a downtown resident who previously spoke to the issue. Elliott was glad to have their input, however the committee felt it would be better to present their ideas to the Downtown Task Force for further consideration.

- Discussion in regard to the per capita assessment and the Poweshiek County Transfer Station.

Elliott summarized the issues discussed in regard to the per capita fee being charged by Poweshiek County for post closure fees and the fees currently owed on the landfill no longer in use. Elliott stated the county intends to continue to collect those fees and that the transfer agreement with the solid waste agency will be reviewed after two years. If at the end of two years, both parties are not satisfied with the arrangement, the county can assume operation of the station for essentially the same cost as it was sold for. Elliott explained that Bixby verified the fees charged to users of the station will be required to now cover the total cost without the use of the per capita fee the county had applied in the past. The solid waste agency anticipates an increase after the first year of operation. Elliott reviewed the city's commitment to the landfill and the county through the signing of a 28E agreement. The 28E agreement is under review.

White questioned if because the city of Grinnell is the largest user of the landfill, if they have given any consideration to allowing Grinnell representation on the board, in addition to the guarantee of fees for the first year. Elliott responded that the agency has committed that the rates will not increase in the first year and that services being handled publicly or privately are still under review. Behrens responded that the agency felt that the board was adequately designed and that Grinnell was represented through Poweshiek County. Behrens also explained the additional cost that is charged in the tipping fees currently at the station simply reflects the cost of transportation. White insisted the city be prepared for the increases to allow ample opportunity to investigate options in the event the city would chose not to belong to the landfill. Elliott suggested Baker be put in charge of managing the information to stay aware of fee increases. Elliott clarified that the better the city does with recycling and the more the city can reduce from the waste stream, the less cost that will be paid by the citizens.

- Review of the city code in regard to open burning.

Elliott informed the council that the current ordinance allows burning only if you are on your own property and only yard waste. Elliott reviewed that a third set of regulations are part of the code, however are not described

in detail within the code. The committee is considering banning burning in Grinnell or at a minimum clarifying the restrictions. The committee will continue to work on the topic for further review.

- II. Report from the Finance Committee.
  - o Discussion in regard to community development.

White updated the Council on the economic development proposals. White felt that there had been some miscommunication in regard to PAD's attendance at the meetings. White noted the meetings open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

- o Recommend approval for the requests for assistance from the Campbell Fund.

The requests were approved as presented.

- o **Review** of the 2004-2005 Liability Insurance Premium.

White noted the 11% increase for the 2004-2005 liability insurance premiums. White commented that the committee further discussed the impact on the liability insurance in regard to the addition of a skate park or dog park.

- o Update in regard to the Deputy City Clerk position and duties.

White commented on the continued process of cross training to cover the duties of the Deputy City Clerk.

### III. Appointment to Boards and Commissions with City Council Approval

The mayor did not have any appointments at this time.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- I. Approval of the lease agreement in regard to use of the softball diamonds.

Moved by WHITE, second by MCNAUL, to approve the lease agreement in regard to the use of the softball diamond. Roll Call Vote: White, McNaul, Elliott, Wilson, Worley. Motion carried.

- II. Approval of the request by Richard Berman for the use of the Lions Park for the annual bike ride event.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WORLEY to approve the request by Richard Berman for the use of the Lions Park for the annual bike ride event. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, Worley, Wilson, McNaul, White. Motion carried.

#### FINAL READING OF THE ORDINANCE:

Moved by WHITE, second by MCNAUL to conduct the final reading of Ordinance No. 1228: "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY – *locally known as a portion of the city parking lot on the west side of Main Street between Third and Fourth Avenues in Grinnell's Central Business District.*" Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, McNaul, Worley, Wilson, Elliott. Motion carried.

#### INQUIRIES:

Lucielle Arhens – Citizen – apologized for not being present for previous discussions in regard to the changing of the traffic from one way to two way. She is concerned about the timing of the traffic lights, in

addition to their placement of the street lights. She felt that the lights should be timed to allow people to cross the street, as well as to get traffic out of the area.

Arhens felt the establishment of the DOG park was a positive idea. She also thanked the police and fire departments for the tremendous effort they put forth to keep the city safe.

Elliott responded that the city council must first decide the direction of traffic. Once that has been determined, the timing and placement of the traffic lights will be reviewed.

ADJOURN:

Moved by MCNAUL, second by WILSON, to adjourn this regular session of the Grinnell City Council. Vote: (6) ayes, motion carried. Adjournment: 7:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Gordon Canfield, Mayor

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Cassandra R. Hage, City Clerk